

REMARKS

Interview summary: On July 26, 2006, the Examiner and LeRoy Maunu discussed the limitations of claims 1 and 10. The Examiner agreed that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of claim 10.

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 10, which is now cancelled, and independent claims 13 and 14 are similarly amended. Dependent claim 11 is amended to correct the dependency. The amendments are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and not for patentability, and the claim cancellations are made without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter of the original claims (prior to amendment) and subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent prosecution.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11-16 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1 and 13 under 35 USC §103(a) over "Moore" (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,700 to Moore et al.) in view of "Moskowitz" (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071556 to Moskowitz et al.) and "Kaplan" (Kaplin, IBM Cryptolopes, SuperDistribution and Digital Rights Management, 1996, IBM, Pages 1-10) and further in view of the article by "Bellare" (Bellare et al., Verifiable Partial Key Escrow, 1997, ACM, pages 78-91) is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The traversals of the claim rejections using Moore and Moskowitz as references and the arguments previously presented in response to those rejections are maintained and incorporated by reference in this response. The rejection is now moot, however, in view of the amendments made to the claims. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2 and 8 under 35 USC §103(a) over the Moore-Moskowitz-Kaplan combination as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of "Brundrett" (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,866 to Brundrett et al.) is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

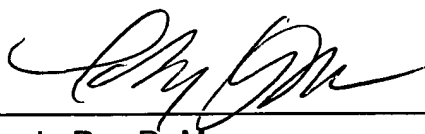
The traversals of the claim rejections using Moore, Moskowitz, and Brundrett as references and the arguments previously presented in response to those rejections are

maintained and incorporated by reference in this response. The rejection is now moot, however, in view of the amendments made to independent claim 1. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the remarks set forth above. No extension of time is believed to be necessary for consideration of this response. However, if an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition for a sufficient number of months for consideration of this response. If there are any additional fees in connection with this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (HPCO.024PA).

Respectfully submitted,

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